

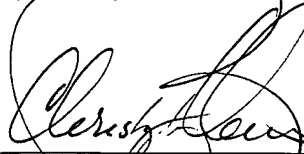
In response, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse to prosecute the subject matter of Group I (Claims 1 to 7) in the present application. Applicants reserve all rights to the subject matter recited in non-elected Claims 8 to 24.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement. Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's characterization of the claimed invention, Applicants believe that a thorough search of the relevant art for Group I will require substantial consideration of the art relevant to Groups II and III. In this regard, Applicants note that Group I and II recite subject matter from closely related classes. Separate search and examination by separate Examiners may lead to duplicate work and inconsistent results. Accordingly, Applicants submit that it would be administratively and economically preferable to search and examine all of the claims together, and request that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn and that all pending claims be examined in the present application.

Applicants believe that the present paper is fully responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement, and consideration on the merits of all pending claims at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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